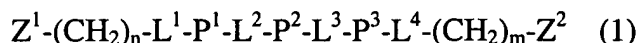
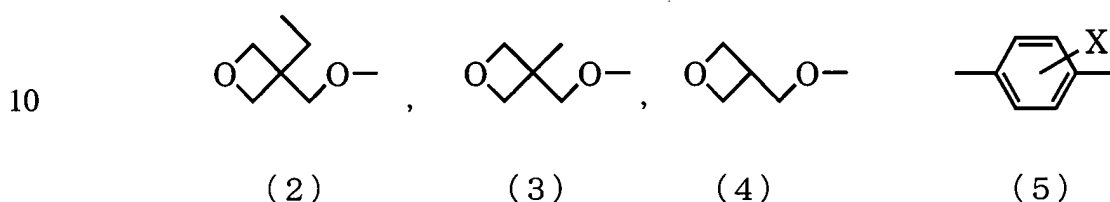


# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A novel liquid crystalline compound has the formula:



wherein  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  are each independently a group represented by any one of formulas (2), (3) and  
 5 (4) below,  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$ ,  $L^3$ , and  $L^4$  each independently indicate direct bond or are a group represented by  
 any of -O-, -O-CO-, or -CO-O-,  $P^1$  and  $P^2$  are each independently a group represented by formula  
 (5) below, and  $P^3$  indicates direct bond or is a group represented by formula (5) below, n and m are  
 each independently an integer of 0 to 8;



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, or halogen and provides an  
 optical film with an excellent capability of retaining the aligned liquid crystal orientation which has  
 been fixed and in mechanical strength.